

**From:** [Richard Chism](#)  
**To:** [Emily Lindley](#)  
**Cc:** [Andrea Morrow](#); [Michael Honeycutt](#); [Gray, David](#); [Ryan Vise](#); [Susan Johnson](#); [Tracy Miller](#); [Lori Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Do we have a winner on the AP response?  
**Date:** Sunday, September 3, 2017 12:23:53 PM

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Im good.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 12:22 PM, Emily Lindley <[Emily.Lindley@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Emily.Lindley@tceq.texas.gov)> wrote:

My edits below.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 12:17 PM, Andrea Morrow <[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)> wrote:

Any additions, corrections?

**Air Quality Monitoring:** Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by state authorities, all the ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi to Beaumont were protected before the storm. Since then, state authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 88 percent of monitors are up and working again in Corpus Christi, 85 percent in Houston, and 36 percent in Beaumont. Of the available air monitoring data collected from August 24-September 2, 2017, all measured concentrations were well below levels of health concern. Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning, and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm.

EPA has its surveillance aircraft conducting air monitoring for the Arkema plant fire. Also, EPA's mobile air-monitoring unit will be in Houston to assist with air monitoring as well. Also, EPA's mobile air monitoring Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer bus will be in Houston to assist with air monitoring as well. The TAGA is a self-contained mobile laboratory capable of real-time sampling and of outdoor air or emissions. The instrumentation refers both to the analytical instrument and the mobile laboratory built around it.

Emergency response monitoring at the Arkema facility evacuation perimeter is being conducted. We will make those data available as we are able. So far, nothing of immediate health concern has been detected.

We have established a Unified Command with other state and federal partners, and are in the field conducting rapid needs assessments. The TCEQ will use the available technology that will best support the field activities being conducted, which may

include the use of hand held air monitoring equipment.

Continue to monitor the TCEQ's Hurricane Response website for updates:  
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes>

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Hurricane Response - TCEQ - [www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov)  
[www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov)

Information you might need if you are affected by a tropical storm or hurricane.

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**From:** Michael Honeycutt  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2017 12:10 PM  
**To:** Andrea Morrow  
**Cc:** Emily Lindley; Gray, David; Ryan Vise; Richard Chism; Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller; Lori Wilson  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed response to AP questions with EPA additions- please review

Tuesday

On Sep 3, 2017, at 12:09 PM, Andrea Morrow <[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)> wrote:

Do we know when that will begin? That will make my life a lot easier! ;  
)

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**From:** Michael Honeycutt  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2017 12:08 PM  
**To:** Emily Lindley  
**Cc:** Gray, David; Andrea Morrow; Ryan Vise; Richard Chism; Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller; Lori Wilson  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed response to AP questions with EPA additions- please review

Could also add TCEQ will soon begin daily updates on air quality that will be available on hurricane webpage.

On Sep 3, 2017, at 12:06 PM, Emily Lindley

<[Emily.Lindley@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Emily.Lindley@tceq.texas.gov)> wrote:

What about adding this info in? It's pretty good.  
As of Saturday, September 2, over 88 percent of monitors are up and working again in Corpus Christi, 85 percent in Houston, and 36 percent in Beaumont; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week. Of the available air monitoring data collected from August 24-September 2, 2017, all measured concentrations were well below levels of health concern. Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning, and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm.

Anyone is welcome to disagree! Just my opinion. It's going in the other statement.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:57 AM, Gray, David  
<[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)> wrote:

I should have the information about on the ground monitoring around cosby in a few minutes

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:51 AM, Andrea Morrow  
<[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)> wrote:

David, can you give me a description of what the TAGA bus does?

This is a response to the Associated Press questions:

- 1) We have been told EPA is doing air monitoring at the Arkema plant in Crosby. Can you tell me what your monitoring has found?

What chemicals in what concentrations? Where are you doing the monitoring exactly, with what instruments?

2) Your data shows multiple ozone and PM monitoring stations in Houston were knocked out during the story. Was it indeed more than half of the ozone monitors? When do you expect them to be fixed and back online?

3) Are EPA/TCEQ monitoring air quality around Houston petrochemical plants and refineries to look for potential health and safety problems? Have they deployed any mobile air monitors? (I gather these are EPA crews working in coordination with TCEQ?) If so, what have they found in the last few days near the petrochemical plants around the ship channel? If they haven't been monitoring, why not? The startup and shutdown operations typically produce heavier emissions of airborne contaminants, as we know.

2) Other than ozone and PM10 and PM2.5 are you monitoring for any other specific compounds?

3) What are the state of Texas and the EPA doing to monitor public health near the petrochemical plants and refineries given the extraordinary shutdown and startup pollution and the possibility of contaminants

released into their  
neighborhoods? Will  
there be health  
monitoring? If so, by  
whom? If not, why  
not?

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**From:** Emily Lindley  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2017  
11:48 AM  
**To:** Ryan Vise  
**Cc:** Andrea Morrow; Gray, David;  
Michael Honeycutt; Richard Chism;  
Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller; Lori  
Wilson  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed response to  
AP questions with EPA additions-  
please review

I added the word Arkema at the  
end of the 1st paragraph. I think  
we need to say what the TAGA  
bus is and what it does. I like that  
we got that in there. Just need to  
explain to the public more.

Just so I'm straight is this part of  
the larger statement from this  
morning? Or something  
different?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:44 AM,  
Ryan Vise  
<[Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov](mailto:Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov)>  
wrote:

I'm good with the  
language

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at  
11:43 AM, Andrea  
Morrow

<[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)>  
wrote:

I've  
heard  
from  
Cory,  
David,  
and  
Mike.  
OCE are  
you ok  
with the  
start-  
up/shut-  
down  
language?  
Lori,  
Emily,  
Ryan,  
any  
changes?

**Air  
Quality  
Monitoring:** Monitors  
are  
showing  
that air  
quality  
at this  
time is  
not  
concerning  
and local  
residents  
should  
not be  
concerned  
about air  
quality  
issues

related  
to the  
effects  
of the  
storm.  
Due to  
quick  
action  
and  
proper  
preparation  
by state authorities,  
all the  
ambient  
air  
quality  
monitors  
in the  
network  
from  
south of  
Corpus  
Christi  
to  
Beaumont  
were  
protected  
before  
the  
storm.  
Since  
then, state authorities  
are  
working  
to get  
the  
systems  
up and  
running  
again.  
As of  
Saturday,  
September  
2, over  
70  
percent  
of the

monitors  
are up  
and  
working  
again;  
and  
authorities  
expect  
that the  
network  
will be  
fully  
operational  
again by  
next  
week.

EPA has  
its  
surveillance  
aircraft  
conducting  
air  
monitoring  
for the  
Arkema  
plant  
fire.

Also,  
EPA's  
mobile  
air  
monitoring  
TAGA  
bus will  
be in  
Houston  
to assist  
with air  
monitoring  
as well.

Emergency  
response  
monitoring  
at the  
Arkema  
facility



evacuation  
perimeter  
is being  
conducted.  
We will  
make  
those  
data  
available  
as we  
are able.  
So far,  
nothing  
of  
immediate  
health  
concern  
has  
been  
detected.

The  
same  
rules  
apply for  
start-up,  
shut-  
down  
activities  
however  
delays  
may  
occur  
based  
upon  
factors  
related  
to the  
emergency  
in some  
situations  
(i.e.  
power  
outages,  
computer  
system  
failure,

etc.).

---

**From:**

Gray,  
David

<[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>

**Sent:**

Sunday,  
September  
3, 2017  
11:38  
AM

**To:**

Michael  
Honeycutt

**Cc:**

Andrea  
Morrow;  
Richard  
Chism;  
Ryan  
Vise;  
Susan  
Johnson;  
Tracy  
Miller;  
Lori  
Wilson;  
Emily  
Lindley

**Subject:**

Re:  
Proposed  
response  
to AP  
questions  
- please  
review

Feel free  
to add  
that EPA  
has its

surveillance  
aircraft  
conducting  
air  
monitoring  
for the  
plant  
fire.  
Also, our  
mobile  
air  
monitoring  
TAGA  
bus will  
be in  
Houston  
to assist  
with air  
monitoring.

Sent  
from my  
iPhone

On Sep  
3, 2017,  
at 11:35  
AM,  
Michael  
Honeycutt  
<[Michael.Honeycutt@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Michael.Honeycutt@tceq.texas.gov)>  
wrote:

Ah.  
Missed  
that.

On  
Sep  
3,  
2017,  
at  
11:33  
AM,  
Andrea

Morrow

<[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)>

wrote:

He  
dropped  
the  
ozone  
question,  
Mike.

**From:**

Michael  
Honeycutt

**Sent:**

Sunday,  
September  
3,  
2017  
11:32  
AM

**To:**

Andrea  
Morrow

**Cc:**

Richard  
Chism;  
Ryan  
Vise;  
David  
Gray  
([gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov));  
Susan  
Johnson;  
Tracy  
Miller;  
Lori  
Wilson;  
Emily  
Lindley

**Subject:**

Re:  
Proposed  
response  
to  
AP  
questions  
-  
please  
review

On  
the  
ozone  
blurb,  
you  
could  
add  
that  
TCEQ  
and  
EPA  
send  
ozone  
notifications  
like  
we  
always  
do  
to  
subscribers  
of  
our  
notification  
systems.  
There  
was  
nothing  
unusual  
about  
this  
notification.

On  
Sep  
3,  
2017,  
at

11:28

AM,

Andrea

Morrow

<[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)>

wrote:

Okay,  
what  
do  
you  
all  
think  
of  
this:

**Air  
Quality  
Monitoring:** Monitors

are  
showing  
that  
air  
quality  
at  
this  
time  
is  
not  
concerning  
and  
local  
residents  
should  
not  
be  
concerned  
about  
air  
quality  
issues  
related  
to  
the

effects  
of  
the  
storm.  
Due  
to  
quick  
action  
and  
proper  
preparation  
by state authorities,  
all  
the  
ambient  
air  
quality  
monitors  
in  
the  
network  
from  
south  
of  
Corpus  
Christi  
to  
Beaumont  
were  
protected  
before  
the  
storm.  
Since  
then, state authorities  
are  
working  
to  
get  
the  
systems  
up  
and  
running  
again.  
As  
of

Saturday,  
September  
2,  
over  
70  
percent  
of  
the  
monitors  
are  
up  
and  
working  
again;  
and  
authorities  
expect  
that  
the  
network  
will  
be  
fully  
operational  
again  
by  
next  
week.

Emergency  
response  
monitoring  
at  
the  
Arkema  
facility  
evacuation  
perimeter  
is  
being  
conducted.  
We  
will  
make  
those  
data  
available



as  
we  
are  
able.  
So  
far,  
nothing  
of  
immediate  
health  
concern  
has  
been  
detected.

The  
same  
rules  
apply  
for  
start-  
up,  
shut-  
down  
activities  
however  
delays  
may  
occur  
based  
upon  
factors  
related  
to  
the  
emergency  
in  
some  
situations  
(i.e.  
power  
outages,  
computer  
system  
failure,  
etc.).

**From:**

Michael  
Honeycutt

**Sent:**

Sunday,  
September  
3,  
2017  
11:23  
AM

**To:**

Richard  
Chism;  
Andrea  
Morrow

**Cc:**

Ryan  
Vise;  
David  
Gray  
([gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov));  
Susan  
Johnson;  
Tracy  
Miller

**Subject:**

Re:  
Proposed  
response  
to  
AP  
questions  
-  
please  
review

You  
could  
add  
that  
we  
are  
doing

emergency  
response  
monitoring  
at  
the  
Arkema  
facility  
evacuation  
perimeter  
and  
will  
make  
that  
data  
available  
as  
we  
have  
time.

So  
far,  
nothing  
of  
immediate  
health  
concern  
has  
been  
detected.

.

**From:**  
Richard  
Chism

**Sent:**  
Sunday,  
September  
3,  
2017  
11:19:57  
AM

**To:**  
Andrea  
Morrow

**Cc:**  
Ryan

Vise;  
David  
Gray  
([gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov));  
Michael  
Honeycutt;  
Susan  
Johnson;  
Tracy  
Miller

**Subject:**

Re:  
Proposed  
response  
to  
AP  
questions  
-  
please  
review

This  
is  
directly  
from  
the  
draft  
joint  
response  
this  
morning.  
You  
can  
use  
it.

**Air  
Quality  
Monitoring:** Monitors  
are  
showing  
that  
air  
quality  
at  
this  
time  
is

not  
concerning  
and  
local  
residents  
should  
not  
be  
concerned  
about  
air  
quality  
issues  
related  
to  
the  
effects  
of  
the  
storm.  
Due  
to  
quick  
action  
and  
proper  
preparation  
by state authorities,  
all  
the  
ambient  
air  
quality  
monitors  
in  
the  
network  
from  
south  
of  
Corpus  
Christi  
to  
Beaumont  
were  
protected  
before

the  
storm.  
Since  
then, state authorities  
are  
working  
to  
get  
the  
systems  
up  
and  
running  
again.

As  
of  
Saturday,  
September  
2,  
over  
70  
percent  
of  
the  
monitors  
are  
up  
and  
working  
again;  
and  
authorities  
expect  
that  
the  
network  
will  
be  
fully  
operational  
again  
by  
next  
week.

Sent  
from

my  
iPhone

On  
Sep  
3,  
2017,  
at  
11:14  
AM,  
Andrea  
Morrow  
<[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)>  
wrote:

Which  
is  
correct,  
65%  
or  
this:

- Air  
Quality  
Monitoring:  
One  
of  
the  
many  
preparations  
for  
Hurricane  
Harvey  
included  
EPA,  
TCEQ,  
and  
other  
monitoring  
entities  
temporarily  
removing  
approximately  
75  
percent

of  
the  
stationary  
air  
monitoring  
equipment  
from  
the  
greater  
Houston,  
Corpus  
Christi,  
and  
Beaumont  
areas.  
Since  
then,  
state  
and  
local  
authorities  
are  
working  
to  
get  
the  
systems  
up  
and  
running  
again.  
As  
of  
Saturday,  
September  
2,  
over  
70  
percent  
of  
the  
monitors  
are  
up  
and  
working  
again;



and  
authorities  
expect  
that  
the  
network  
will  
be  
fully  
operational  
again  
by  
next  
week.  
Of  
the  
available  
air  
monitoring  
data  
collected  
from  
August  
24-  
September  
2,  
2017,  
all  
measured  
concentrations  
were  
well  
below  
levels  
of  
health  
concern.  
Monitors  
are  
showing  
that  
air  
quality  
at  
this  
time  
is

not  
concerning  
and  
local  
residents  
should  
not  
be  
concerned  
about  
air  
quality  
issues  
related  
to  
the  
effects  
of  
the  
storm.

---

**From:**

Ryan  
Vise

**Sent:**

Sunday,  
September  
3,  
2017  
11:07  
AM

**To:**

Andrea  
Morrow

**Cc:**

David  
Gray  
([gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov));  
Richard  
Chism;  
Michael  
Honeycutt;  
Susan

Johnson;  
Tracy  
Miller

**Subject:**

Re:  
Proposed  
response  
to  
AP  
questions  
-  
please  
review

I'm  
good  
with  
these  
answers.

Sent  
from  
my  
iPhone

On  
Sep  
3,  
2017,  
at  
11:06  
AM,  
Andrea  
Morrow  
<[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)>  
wrote:

FYI,  
Cory.  
He  
has  
deleted  
the  
third  
question  
because  
he

understands  
the  
nature  
of  
the  
AirNow  
report.

I  
don't  
have  
sufficient  
information  
to  
answer  
these  
questions.  
I  
suggest  
we  
say,  
the  
TCEQ  
has  
reactivated  
65  
percent  
of  
our  
monitoring  
network  
in  
the  
hurricane-  
affected  
areas.

(Insert  
EPA  
monitoring  
data  
here  
or  
explain  
why  
it  
is  
not  
available)

The  
same  
rules  
apply  
for  
start-  
up,  
shut-  
down  
activities

however  
delays  
may  
occur  
based  
upon  
factors  
related  
to  
the  
emergency  
in  
some  
situations  
(i.e.  
power  
outages,  
computer  
system  
failure,  
etc.).

Hourly  
data  
from  
the  
operating  
ozone  
monitors  
in  
TCEQ's  
network  
are  
used  
by  
the  
EPA  
to  
predict  
air  
quality.  
What  
you  
are  
looking  
at  
is  
a  
**forecast**  
based  
on  
one-  
hour  
(snapshot)  
readings.  
The  
201  
ppb

you  
referenced  
is  
not  
an  
actual  
monitored  
reading,  
it  
is  
a  
projection.  
TCEQ  
is  
aware  
of  
elevated  
ozone  
levels  
west  
of  
Houston  
which  
is  
not  
unusual  
for  
this  
time  
of  
year.

1)

You

are  
doing  
air  
monitoring  
at  
the  
Arkema  
plant  
in  
Crosby.  
Can  
you  
tell  
me  
what  
your  
monitoring  
has  
found?  
What  
chemicals  
in  
what  
concentrations?

Where  
are  
you  
doing  
the  
monitoring  
exactly?

2)  
Are  
EPA/TCEQ  
monitoring  
air  
quality  
around  
petrochemical  
plants  
and  
refineries  
looking  
for  
potential  
problems?  
Have  
they  
deployed  
any  
mobile  
air  
monitors?  
(I  
gather  
these  
are  
EPA  
crews  
working  
in  
coordination  
with  
TCEQ?)  
If  
so,  
what  
have  
they  
found  
in  
the  
last  
few  
days  
near  
the  
petrochemical  
plants  
around

the  
ship  
channel?  
If  
they  
haven't  
been  
monitoring,  
why  
not?  
The  
startup  
and  
shutdown  
operations  
typically  
produce  
heavier  
emissions  
of  
airborne  
contaminants,  
right?

3)  
I  
saw  
an  
ozone  
level  
of  
201  
ppb  
recorded  
in  
Houston  
on  
Friday  
on  
[airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov)  
and  
Andrea  
Morrow  
of  
TCEQ  
told  
my  
colleague  
Jason  
Dearen  
that  
the  
reading  
was  
recorded  
as  
a  
single



hourly  
max  
at  
one  
monitoring  
station.  
Your  
ozone  
level  
for  
the  
day  
(95  
ppb)  
is  
based  
on  
an  
eight-  
hour  
of  
average,  
she  
said.  
But  
that  
does  
not  
deny  
that  
a  
single  
station  
had  
that  
maximum  
level,  
correct?  
What  
station  
was  
it?  
Can  
you  
tell  
me  
what  
hour  
of  
the  
day?  
Did  
any  
other  
stations  
Very  
Unhealthy  
ozon

levels  
on  
Friday  
or  
Saturday?

Hourly  
data  
from  
the  
operating  
ozone  
monitors  
in  
TCEQ's  
network  
are  
used  
by  
the  
EPA  
to  
predict  
air  
quality.  
What  
you  
are  
looking  
at  
is  
a  
**forecast**  
based  
on  
one-  
hour  
(snapshot)  
readings.  
The  
201  
ppb  
you  
referenced  
is  
not  
an  
actual  
monitored  
reading,  
it  
is  
a  
projection.  
TCEQ  
is  
aware  
of

elevated  
ozone  
levels  
west  
of  
Houston  
which  
is  
not  
unusual  
for  
this  
time  
of  
year.

4)  
What  
are  
the  
state  
of  
Texas  
and  
the  
EPA  
doing  
to  
monitor  
public  
health  
near  
the  
petrochemical  
plants  
and  
refineries  
given  
the  
extraordinary  
shutdown  
and  
startup  
pollution  
and  
the  
possibility  
of  
contaminants  
released  
into  
their  
neighborhoods?  
Will  
there  
be  
health  
monitoring?

If  
so,  
by  
whom?  
If  
not,  
why  
not?